

the Post-Dispatch, he ran up Connecticut Avenue to cover the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan. For some of the most momentous events of the second half of the 20th Century, Richard Dudman wrote the first draft of history.

After retiring and moving to Ellsworth and Little Cranberry Island in Maine, Mr. Dudman continued to contribute to the Post-Dispatch and wrote more than 1,000 editorials for the Bangor Daily News. Among his many accolades are the prestigious George Polk Career Award in Journalism and induction into the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Dudman combined his journalistic professionalism with a spirit of serving others. In 2014, he and his wife, Helen, were presented with the Golden Eagle Award from the Boy Scouts of America for their commitment to community service, a quality that ran through their remarkable 69 years of marriage.

In this time of sorrow, I offer my deep condolences to Helen and their family. I hope they will find comfort in Richard's inspiring legacy and in a life well-lived. It has been said that we all have a birth date and a death date, with a dash in between. It is what we do with our dash that counts. Richard Dudman's dash was extraordinarily long, and he made it count. He filled it with passion, professionalism, and dedication. May his memory inspire us all to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT "TREY" WALKER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate a tremendous airman, CMSgt Robert "Trey" Walker, on his recent promotion to the highest enlisted rank within the U.S. Air Force, effective August 1, 2017. Selection for chief master sergeant is extremely competitive, as only 1 percent of the Air Force's entire enlisted population may hold the pay grade of E-9 at any time. Chief Walker clearly epitomizes the finest qualities of a military leader, as evidenced by his distinguished career and elevation to the highest enlisted level of leadership within the Air Force.

Chief Master Sergeant Walker entered the U.S. Air Force on September 11, 1996, as a voice network systems specialist and was later selected for retraining into the field of imagery intelligence. Chief Walker's honorable service has spanned numerous overseas and stateside assignments including four European countries, two States, and the Nation's Capital. He has also completed several deployments in support of Operations Desert Fox, Northern Watch, and Enduring Freedom. Chief Walker currently serves as the deputy chief of strategic basing and force structure in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force's legislative liaison directorate.

Chief Master Sergeant Walker has chosen to repeatedly lead his airmen

by example. Despite years of challenging work schedules and countless military obligations, Chief Walker elected to make his education a priority. Since 2005, he has earned two associate degrees, a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, and a graduate-level certificate. Furthermore, Chief Walker's outstanding performance has garnered numerous accolades, including the 548th ISR Group's Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award, the Non-commissioned Officer Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award, the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award and Academic Achievement Award.

As a true testament to Chief Master Sergeant Walker's exceptional career, he was selected to represent the U.S. Air Force on Capitol Hill as its sole enlisted legislative fellow in 2016. I was fortunate to have Chief Walker spend the year in my office as an integral part of Team BOOZMAN and was pleased with his professionalism, character, and devotion to duty. His tireless efforts were critical to the passage and implementation of Public Law 144-292, the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016. Moreover, Chief Walker led a bipartisan effort to protect the Defense Department's basic allowance for housing by educating 18 Senators on the impact for military members. Finally, he played a key role in the successful execution of the Senate Air Force Caucus agenda by increasing service engagement opportunities with Members of Congress.

Chief Walker, congratulations on your well-deserved promotion and successful career thus far. I am so proud of your many accomplishments and wish the very best for you and your family in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" GORDON, JR.

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the life and legacy of Arkansas World War II veteran and civic activist Richard "Dick" Gordon, Jr., who recently passed away.

Dick dedicated his life to regional conservation and civic issues. He encouraged involvement in local government and leaves behind a legacy as a respected community leader.

His father, Colonel Richard Gordon, Sr., a decorated WWI and WWII veteran, set an example that his son followed. During World War II, the younger Gordon served as second lieutenant in the Army's 13th Field artillery unit, 24th Infantry Division, and earned recognition for his service to our country.

As a community leader in the Fort Smith area, Dick made a big impact on numerous agencies and projects. He championed veterans' issues and helped address public school issues with the help of the parent teacher association. He formed the public awareness com-

mittee in Fort Smith, which allowed residents to interact more with government officials.

Dick helped develop a bird sanctuary in conjunction with the Audubon Society earning him the nickname "The Bird Man."

Additionally, Dick was active in the Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department and the U.S. Forest Service. He used these platforms to help bring environmental consciousness to Arkansas.

His civic involvement and willingness to help the community made Dick a well-respected community leader, even though he never held elected office. Then-Fort Smith Mayor Bill Vines made Dick an honorary city director.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends as they mourn his loss, but I know that they are also incredibly proud of the legacy that Dick leaves behind.●

TRIBUTE TO SPENCER M. HOULDIN

• Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Spencer M. Houldin of Roxbury, CT, as he nears the end of his term as the 112th chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big I. Spencer was installed as chairman of the Big I in September 2016, becoming the youngest person to serve as chairman in the association's 120-year history. Throughout his term, even when he and I disagreed, Spencer was always a thoughtful and dedicated advocate for independent insurance agents.

Prior to becoming the chairman, Spencer often served as a leader in the independent agency system. He chaired the Big I national Government Affairs Committee in 2009 and served as the president of the Connecticut Big I association in 2004. In these leadership positions, Spencer consistently promoted an environment where independent agents, in both Connecticut and across the country, could both thrive in their business and represent their customers with the highest quality of care.

Spencer has consistently served his community in Connecticut. He resides in Roxbury, CT, with his wife, Carol, and two sons, Chandler and Carter. Spencer is president of Ericson Insurance Services in Washington Depot, CT, where he has 25 years of experience as a personal insurance advisor, working alongside his brother Peter. He currently sits on the board of the Western Connecticut Health Network, which is comprised of Danbury Hospital, Norwalk Hospital, and New Milford Hospital. He has been involved with the health network in various capacities over the past 20 years. He recently co-chaired a \$72 million capital campaign for Danbury and New Milford Hospitals. In July 2017, Litchfield Magazine named Spencer one of Litchfield County, Connecticut's 25 most influential people.

Today, I am pleased to join Spencer's colleagues from across Connecticut and

the Nation in congratulating him as he finishes his term as chairman of the Big I.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA-DAKOTAS KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District Convention.

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to serving the children of the world. With a motto of "One Child and one Community at a time," Kiwanis members dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours and invest more than \$107 million in projects that strengthen communities and serve children. These projects include helping shelter the homeless, feeding the hungry, mentoring the disadvantaged, caring for the sick, developing the youth as leaders, building playgrounds, raising funds for pediatric research, and much more.

Today the Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis has over 4,000 members. With a club slogan of "Serving the children of the World," the chapter supports a range of programs, including Kiwanis Kids—elementary students—Builder's Club—middle school students—Key Club—high school students—and Circle K—college students. In addition, the chapter supports Aktion clubs for adults with disabilities. These programs allow our youth and adults to build character, leadership skills and learn more about themselves and their communities.

I congratulate the Kiwanis International Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International on their 100th convention and thank them for their leadership and dedication to children and to their communities. May they continue to thrive for the 100 years to come.●

REMEMBERING ELIJAH "YOCKIE" DELEE

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor the life of a great South Carolinian and American veteran, Mr. Elijah "Yockie" DeLee, who departed this life on July 20, 2017.

Elijah was a lifelong resident of Dorchester County, SC, where he worked tirelessly as a beloved deacon at Surprise Baptist Church. He was drafted into the Vietnam war shortly after graduating high school and showed perseverance until he was honorably discharged. He possessed an entrepreneurial spirit and followed his passion for drag racing to help open South Carolina's first minority-owned dragway: Dorchester Dragway. He continued his business endeavors with the opening of DeLee One Trucking Company, still a staple in Dorchester today. In success, Elijah always exemplified respect, humility, and generosity.

For many in Dorchester, he will be remembered for his relentless spirit, tenacity for life, and heart for people. He never met a stranger and was always eager to lend a helping hand. Yockie loved and adored his family, and next to God and his faith, they were always his top priority in life. He was a true provider, mediator, demonstrator, and imitator of Godly character. He will surely be missed among family, friends, and the community of Dorchester as a great American and South Carolinian.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW LIGHT BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor New Light Beulah Baptist Church in Hopkins, SC, for their 150th anniversary, which will be celebrated on August 11 to 13, 2017.

New Light Beulah Baptist Church was established in 1867 when 665 African-American members of Beulah Baptist Church chose to separate from the White members and began independent rule. Despite the sanctuary burning to the ground in 1916, the church thrived and expanded. Since then, several other churches have been formed out of New Light Beulah Baptist. In 2015, the members accepted Dr. Malcolm Taylor as their pastor, and over 360 members call New Light Beulah their place of worship today.

In August 2017, New Light Beulah Baptist Church will be the first African-American church in the lower Richland community to be registered in the National Register of Historic Places. The church has remained committed to its mission, and I encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the rich history of the church and its contribution to the Palmetto State. I acknowledge and celebrate the church's 150 years of independence as a congregation faithfully serving their community.●

REMEMBERING HORACE MERRILL

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Horace Sellers Merrill of Micaville, AL, who passed away on February 17, 2017. He will be remembered as a dedicated public servant who worked faithfully for the citizens of Alabama. He was committed to bettering his community and State through his public service and involvement in the community.

Mr. Merrill began a career with the Dixie Mines Mica Mining Company in the late 1950s before entering Alabama politics. In 1964, he was elected circuit clerk of Cleburne County, a position he held for 12 years. Following his term as circuit clerk, Mr. Merrill was elected probate judge and chairman of the Cleburne County Commission, where he served for 6 years.

Mr. Merrill will be remembered for his leadership in completing the Alabama welcome center and rest area on

Interstate 20, as well as his efforts to utilize the Dyne Creek watershed to service the citizens of Cleburne County with a countywide water system.

Outside of his professional career, Mr. Merrill was a very active member of his community. He served as president of the Lions Club, the Jaycees, and the local Athletics Boosters Club. In his earlier years, Mr. Merrill was an accomplished athlete. He lettered in both baseball and football and then attended Southern Union Junior College on an athletic scholarship. He later served as the announcer for Little League and junior high football games in Cleburne County and helped organize the first youth baseball program in Heflin.

Additionally, Mr. Merrill was a longtime member in the Cleburne Baptist Association, serving as an officer and pastor of several churches. A member of Heflin Baptist Church for more than 50 years, Mr. Merrill served as a deacon, a Sunday school teacher, Sunday school superintendent, church training director, and sanctuary choir member.

Horace's many accomplishments and contributions to the State of Alabama will long be remembered. He touched the lives of many over the years, and he will be greatly missed.

I offer my deepest condolences to Horace's wife, Mary, and to all of their loved ones as they celebrate his life and mourn this great loss.●

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST MONTANA CHAPTER OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Vietnam Veterans of America and the work Mr. John Burgess and the local Flathead Valley chapter has done on behalf of his fellow veterans of the Vietnam war.

During that war, more than 2.5 million Americans fought bravely in service to their country. While more than 58,000 of those men and women gave the ultimate sacrifice, many more endured and are still here with us today. However, it has not been an easy road for these veterans. For far too long, veterans of the Vietnam war have received neither the recognition nor the benefits that they truly deserved.

As ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, it has been my honor to fight for legislation that rectifies this oversight like the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act that would allow veterans who served in the waters offshore during the Vietnam war to also be eligible for service-connected disability benefits as a result of agent orange exposure. I have also proudly sponsored the Toxic Exposure Research Act which increases research into the health conditions of descendants of veterans who were exposed to toxins during their military service, particularly those exposed to the herbicide agent orange during the Vietnam war.

Honoring these veterans takes more than just legislation; it takes dedicated